



INDEXA

Helping to Make DX Happen Since 1983

Summer 2015

www.indexa.org

Issue 110

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship

A Word from President Dixon

Hello INDEXA Members and fellow DXers:

Immediately following this message you will find articles written by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, Chairman of the Board for INDEXA and Mary Hobart, K1MMH, our newest Director and former Chief Development Officer for ARRL. Both have written articles describing the value and advantages of donating to INDEXA in our first year as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Mary explains some of the various ways in which donations can now be given for maximum Tax Advantage to the donor.

K4MQG	Gary Dixon	President
K8YC	John Scott	Vice President
W3OA	Dick Williams	Sec./Treasurer
K4UEE	Bob Allphin	Chm. Board of Dir.
DJ9ZB	Franz Langner	Board of Dir.
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K1MMH	Mary Hobart	Board of Dir.
N2OO	Bob Schenck	Board of Dir.
W4UNP	Bill Jennings	Board of Dir.
W6IZT	Gregg Marco	Board of Dir.
WB9Z	Jerry Rosalius	Board of Dir.

Please read these articles by two of our well-known Directors. Bob, K4UEE, has now participated in, led, or co-led DXpeditions to ELEVEN of the DXCC "top 10 most wanted" entities. He knows what donations mean to DXpeditions, and many of his rare DXpeditions would have not happened if donations from DXers and Foundations had not been generous. Mary Hobart, K1MMH, former ARRL Chief Development Officer, knew how to raise money for the ARRL and has shared her knowledge how to give and receive a tax credit for your hobby.

Again, thanks for your support and Membership!

Gary Dixon, K4MQG
INDEXA President

From The Chairman

Bob Allphin, K4UEE

Dear members of INDEXA,

It is with great pleasure that I can report that after 30 years, INDEXA now has a tax-free status with the United States Internal Revenue Service. This means that for US citizens, your membership fee and any contribution you make to INDEXA is tax-deductible. (Of course, you should consult your tax advisor).

What this means to all members is that we can now seek larger contributions that may have otherwise been impossible to compete for. For example, it may now be beneficial from a charitable and a tax perspective to include INDEXA in your will, or as a beneficiary of your life insurance. Or, even as a recipient of a portion of your annual contributions to charities and other organizations you like to support.

Our intent is to build up an asset base that when invested properly can produce an annual income that would

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inside... *Eritrea E30FB —2015 By Paul Ewing on "Second Front Page"*
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supplement our annual dues. The obvious advantage is that INDEXA would be able to increase its impact on the DX world. One example is the recent announcement of our intent to encourage DXpeditions to provide humanitarian assistance to the people and communities that they visit. This is not a requirement of funding from INDEXA, but instead an incentive. If the DXpedition leaders and team members are interested in providing humanitarian assistance, then we are willing to provide additional funding to assist them with their plans.

I am optimistic about the future of INDEXA. With a Board of Directors largely made up of very experienced DXers and DXpeditioners, Officers that have been at the helm for years and now the ability to encourage our members to provide even larger amounts of support, we have a bright future. Our motto for over 30 years has been "Helping to Making DX Happen". I believe that over the next 30 years INDEXA will bring bigger and better support to the worldwide DX community.

—**Bob**, K4UEE, Chairman, Board of Directors

HOW CREATIVE WILL YOU BE?

By Mary Hobart, K1MMH

When it comes to making donations most of us think of just writing a check or throwing in an extra \$20 to support an organization or event. That's easy. But when it comes to considering an opportunity to contribute significantly to an endeavor that is at the top of our list and at the foundation of a lifetime of friendship and enjoyment—INDEXA—we may stop, and say "I can't write that kind of check". It's true that some of us cannot, but I hope you will keep reading and let your creative juices flow. There are creative ways you can continue to support INDEXA as a member and take a creative and big step forward to endow the organization dedicated to your interest—DX for the top 60 entities—and you may gain a tax advantage.

INDEXA provides grants to about seven DXpeditions each year. Grants are based on funds available. How much more can INDEXA accomplish? The answer lies in your willingness to think creatively about how you can craft a matrix of your assets to increase your annual commitment, over and above your membership dues. Only by endowing INDEXA with a significant influx of capital can we

not only increase the number of grants awarded, but also increase the amount of each grant.

As we embark on our first year of operation as a tax deductible organization, INDEXA's new status as a 501(c)(3) organization may mean tax benefits for you in your support decision. Here are some creative ways that might appeal to you.

CASH is king! Think of making your annual commitment quarterly or even monthly. Such a plan may ease your cash flow and make renewing your annual commitment year after year, making you a sustaining donor to INDEXA. For example, an annual commitment of \$1000 can be paid with \$500 twice a year, \$250 each quarter or \$83 a month. Perhaps you can manage \$1200 a year, payable with \$100 a month.

Stocks offer an advantage Increases in stock value may offer you a tax advantage. Contributing stock when the market is high means that you may benefit by offsetting capital gains taxes by making a contribution of appreciated stock. Donors may also consider creating a commitment with a combination of stock and cash which allows them to do even more for INDEXA.

Life insurance. We all have families to care for and life insurance provides security for loved ones. But, once you have made plans for family you may choose to make INDEXA the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or divide the policy between family and INDEXA. Again, this is an option that, coupled with cash and/or stock, can allow you to make a more significant commitment to INDEXA.

Retirement or 401K proceeds. If you have taken care of your family in your estate plans, consider donating the residual of a 401K or IRA to INDEXA. While such a plan is for future giving, if coupled with stock or cash your overall commitment to INDEXA increases the total endowment that INDEXA can use to support DXing.

In all situations please consult with your financial and legal professionals to ensure that you and your family are in a solid financial position. Then, please think creatively. Combine assets and determine how and when you can make a significant commitment. If you have other ideas of how you might combine assets and perhaps take advantage of the organization's 501 (c)(3) status, let's talk. Thank you for being as generous as you can.

Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Director



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Second Front Page

Eritrea (E30FB)—2015 **By Paul Ewing, N6PSE**

The E30FB DXpedition was organized with the aim of supporting Eritrea and its participation in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics Games. In addition, the goal was to assist Eritrea in improving education and health. During our stay in Eritrea, members of the E30FB Team attended a number of meetings and discussions with the Eritrean Government and their representatives. These meetings were very fruitful and this DXpedition is just one aspect of those fruitful meetings. Eritrea is trying to catch up and to compete on the international level with respect to the Olympics and the Paralympics. We are very delighted



A very proud E30FB Team, L-R N6PSE, WD5COV, JH1AJT, NQ7R, JA1TRC, RA9USU, DJ9ZB, JH1OGX, and JH1NBN.

to help Eritrea compete for the first time at this level in the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

About Eritrea

Eritrea is a small country of six million inhabitants in the Horn of Africa, bordering Ethiopia, Djibouti and Sudan. Just across the Red Sea is Saudi Arabia and Yemen. During the 1870's to 1941, Eritrea was a colony of Italy and was known as Italian Eritrea. That changed in 1941 after the Battle of Keren, where the British expelled the Italians and took control of Eritrea. In the 1950's Ethiopia made claim to Eritrea and in 1950 the UN made a resolution to federate Eritrea with Ethiopia. In the 1960's Eritrea began a thirty year war of independence with Ethiopia until 1991 when Ethiopian forces were defeated and Eritrea took control of Addis

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Ababa, the capitol of Ethiopia. A subsequent UN supervised referendum gave Eritrea their independence in 1993. Since then, Eritrea continues to have border conflicts with Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Zorro's Vision

You might say that Zorro Miyawawa-JH1AJT is a determined man. A successful businessman, philanthropist and humanitarian, Zorro has made a number of visits to Eritrea over the past two decades, including two previous DXpeditions from Eritrea. Eritrea had not been activated in over a decade and Zorro felt that the timing and conditions were right to make another attempt.

Zorro is the founder and CEO of SEISA and the Foundation for Global Children (FGC). After their successful efforts in Bangladesh culminating with the very successful S21YZ DXpedition, Zorro then set his sights on Myanmar, resulting in his DXpedition as XZ1J.

This DXpedition has been planned to support the above project in the hope that funds will be raised through the amateur radio activities. These humanitarian activities have led to the Eritrean Government's full trust in him. Soon, Zorro received permission to carry out a demonstration operation as E30FB. Zorro operated with a SteppIR vertical and 100 watts from the roof of the Asmara Palace Hotel.

Being an avid DXer and DXpeditioner with previous DXpedition experiences in Eritrea, Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Myanmar, Zorro recognized the significance of the elevation of the Asmara Palace Hotel. At six floors, this hotel is one of the tallest buildings in Asmara. It is also located on the fringe of Asmara next to the Airport. The Asmara Palace Hotel would provide a superb venue for the E30FB DXpedition. We would be QRV on March 6th and we would QRT the morning of March 17th, 2015.

On March 5th, the entire team met in Istanbul, Turkey for our flights together to Asmara. We made a brief stop in Saudi Arabia on the way to Asmara. All of our equipment was shipped with us as Air Cargo at considerable cost. We arrived in Asmara at approximately 2:30AM. We were treated as an important delegation and we were met by various Eritrean Government Representatives. We were ushered into a VIP section of the air terminal that was more

representative of the interior of a Palace than an airport. Zorro immediately received a renewed E30FB license from the Government Representatives and soon we were delivered to our hotel only about one mile from the airport.

As it was still dark, the team got a little rest and after breakfast we began to set up the various Yagis, verticals and dipoles on the roof of the hotel. We utilized two different rooms on opposing wings of the hotel for our radio shacks.

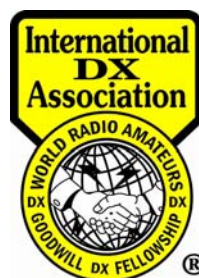


David-WD5COV and Dimitry-RA9USU prepare a low band vertical antenna.

As Eritrea is the 20th most wanted entity, we knew that we would soon be facing some very large pile-ups. On the East wing of the hotel, we set up a Force 12 C3SS for 10-15-20 meters and a 30 meter

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vertical antenna. On the West wing, we set up a two element SteppIR Yagi intended for the WARC bands, as well as a SteppIR vertical for 10-80 meters.

We also used a Cushcraft R8 for 17 and 30 meters. At the very top of the building, we placed a very tall



Our compliment of low band antennas on the hotel roof.

vertical for 80/160 meters. We feared that noise was to be a problem for us, however hours later we were relieved to find that the noise threshold was very tolerable and did not create a significant problem.

As was done in Myanmar, we again enjoyed the very nice set of 4O3A high power band pass filters



We were able to run three stations concurrently on our Force 12 C3SS

and tri-plexer. This allowed us to run three stations concurrently from our Force 12 tri-band antenna at 600 watts output. This is amazing technology that works very well and saves a lot of time in setting up only a single antenna for three bands.

Soon, we were on the air, working Asia and EU with tremendous pileups. It was fun to hear the excitement



David-WD5COV, Franz-DJ9ZB and Kazu-JH10GX wrestle our 160 meter vertical to the roof.

in the voices of the many SSB callers. Later in the evening, propagation on the high bands shifted to North and South America. It was necessary to ask Europe to QRX as we could work them at almost any time on the higher bands. We wanted to be fair to every region of the globe and to give as many amateurs as possible a good chance to work a rare and much needed entity. Initially, propagation on the higher bands was exceptionally good. We enjoyed amazing propagation on 10, 12, 15 and 20 meters. Seventeen meters did not propagate as

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well as the other higher bands. The following evening, we went QRV on the low bands. Conditions on 30, 40 and 80 meters were average. We found on 160 meters that we were being heard much better than we could hear the stations calling us.



INDEXA Director Franz Langner, DJ9ZB, wades into the tremendous EU pileups. He must have felt at home sitting below the INDEXA flag.

Solar Flare

On March 12, there was a monster X-Class solar flare that briefly blanked out HF reception around the globe with additional disturbed conditions in the days following the event. We experienced one day of almost complete blackout conditions. Even working Europe was quite difficult. Bands such as 10 and 12 meters that had been exceptionally good in the previous days were not productive during the flare. After about a day and a half, conditions improved and we enjoyed good but often fluctuating propagation, much less predictable than the days prior to the solar storm.

A visit to Asmara

During the solar storm, some of the team members decided to make a morning visit to Asmara. We wanted to get a glimpse of how the Eritreans work and live. There is very little tourism in Eritrea currently. In fact, the Country is seemingly not active in issuing visas for tourists.

There is very little for a tourist to see or do in Asmara. We visited an old Catholic and Orthodox

church, and a large Mosque. We also visited the old Post Office, and strolled through an outdoor shopping area where locals buy their wares. We visited a large recycling yard where child labor was very evident. We saw the many horse and donkey carts on the roadway, almost as common as automobiles and trucks.

Operating Strategy

Back at the Asmara Palace Hotel, we intended to use the following operating strategy during our first weekend which the same as was the ARRL SSB contest. In order to avoid contention with the contest, we would be QRV on the WARC bands of 12, 17 and 30 meters primarily. This strategy immedi-



Zorro-JH1AJT working 10 meters SSB.

ately was derailed when we found that we could not easily tune either of our two SteppIR antennas. The SteppIR vertical that Zorro had enjoyed previously was damaged internally and was set aside. The two element Yagi was also damaged internally, however Dima-RA9USU works for a company in Russia that sells and services SteppIR antennas and he was eventually able to repair the SteppIR Yagi where we enjoyed it on 12 meters.

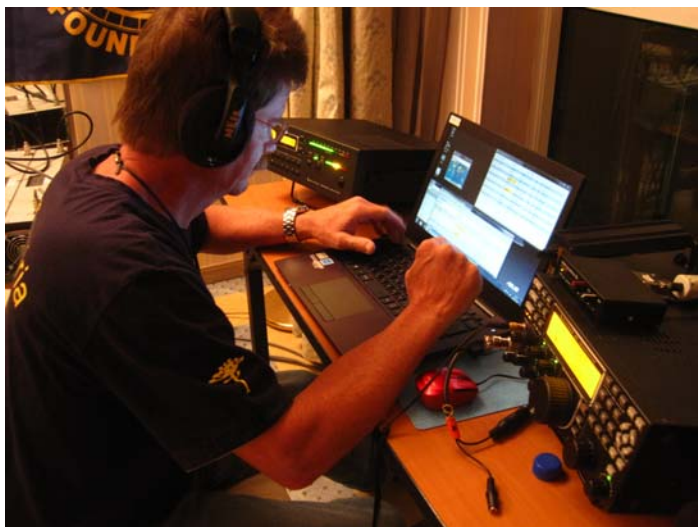
During the contest, I found myself operating on 20 meters SSB (Simplex). This was very arduous and challenging and I am sure that many callers thought that I had "rocks in my head" but operating simplex was the better alternative rather than not operating at all. As soon as the contest was over, we oper-

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ated split exclusively for the remainder of the DXpedition and it was a challenge to keep our pileups to within 15 KHz wide. Our RTTY strategy was to operate exclusively on 15 meters. Even though our 15m RTTY pileup was still quite large on our last day, this strategy proved quite effective in giving everyone a chance to work this mode.



David-(WD5COV) working 20 CW all across North America.

Soon, we fell into our rhythm. We all operated around the clock, taking two or three hours here and there for a rest break. We worked hard to keep four stations on the air at all times. David-WD5COV and Dima-RA9USU gave particular attention to the low bands, working 30, 40, 80 and 160 meters each night until our sunrise. Our opening to North America started at about 10PM local time on the high bands. I enjoyed working all across North America, following the propagation from East to West. Our West Coast opening took place each night at about 3AM and sometimes continued until about 4:30 AM where propagation would end with KH6 and VK/ZL stations. After a few hours rest, we would start all over again working Asia and Europe.

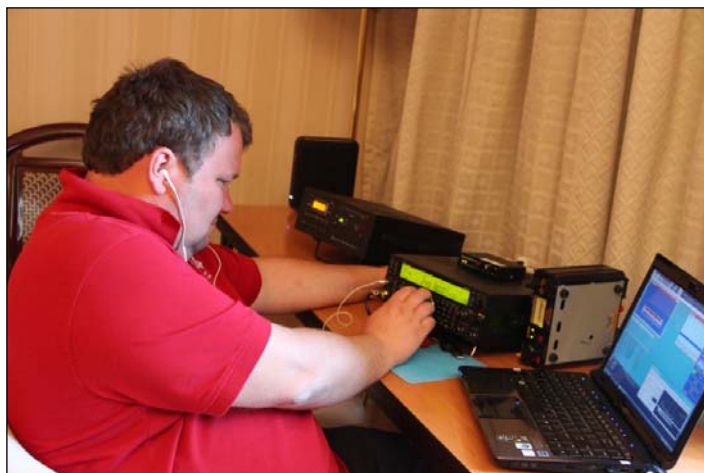
Our challenges

Our challenges were many and varied. It was quite challenging to keep four stations on the air 24X7 with a small but capable team. Each team member was pushed to his limits to balance operating, eating and sleeping and being ready for his next shift.



Tom-NQ7R working the pileups.

"Murphy" visited us many times on this DXpedition. We saw antenna failures and laptop failures. Zorro had to shop around in Asmara for a replacement logging laptop. Each time Murphy visited us, we battled back with skill and determination, not willing to give in to failure.



Dima-RA9USU (our SteppIR Guru) working down the 160m pileup.

When we initially activated 80 meters, the interstation interference was extreme and we immediately had to shut down 80 meters until we could resolve the issue. Dima-RA9USU and David-WD5COV did a lot of fine tuning to enable 80 meter operations without adverse impact to our other operations.

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Closing thoughts

This was a fun and enjoyable DXpedition. Many of the team members had operated together previously and our skills and styles complimented each other. Everyone was focused on making an impact to the need for E3 contacts. We are pleased to have been able to make 64,500 contacts with 20,326 of them being unique callers. We are very grateful to INDEXA and all of our foundation, club and individual sponsors for their financial assistance in bringing about this DXpedition.

Thank you,

Paul Ewing, N6PSE

Co-Leader, E30FB DXpedition



INDEXA Newsletter Archives

In March, 1984 INDEXA's then President Murf Ratterree (W4WMQ) sat down at his typewriter and typed the pages that would become Issue #1 of the INDEXA newsletter. It was a true "cut and paste" operation in those early days predating widespread ownership of personal computers. Over the years, computers with composing software and professional quality fonts have gradually transformed organizational newsletters to become good quality, finished products. The most recent four or five newsletter issues have been available on the INDEXA website for the past five years. With this issue #110, plus about ten unnumbered special issues produced in recent years, we are happy to report that ALL past issues of INDEXA newsletters going back to 1984 can now be viewed as PDF files on the newsletter webpage (www.indexa.org/newsletters.html).

There is a dialog box on the newsletter page that allows you to scroll down through the issues and an abbreviated index is included so you know what is included in each issue. Most browsers also have a page search function which allows you to insert a keyword to locate a DXpedition entity name or a callsign to find and relive that long ago DXpedition.

The oldest newsletters have been scanned from archived hard copies kept by INDEXA and several missing editions carefully saved by long standing members.

We encourage you to look back through some of INDEXA's history. We're sure you'll find many things to interest you.

John Scott, K8YC

INDEXA Vice President and Editor

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